

Appl. No. : 10/749,100
Filed : December 30, 2003

NOV 09 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**1. (Currently Amended) A control lever assembly, comprising:**

a control lever support configured to be connectable to a handlebar assembly of an associated vehicle, said support having an upper flange and a lower flange defining a space therebetween, said upper flange defining an upper bore and said lower flange defining a lower bore, said upper bore and said lower bore aligned with one another along a pivot axis of said control lever assembly;

a control lever defining a finger grip portion and a mount portion, said mount portion defining an upper surface and a lower surface, a distance between said upper and lower surfaces sized such that said mount portion is receivable within said space, said control lever additionally comprising an upper shaft portion extending from said upper surface and a lower shaft extending from said lower surface, said upper shaft portion being supported within said upper bore and said lower shaft portion being supported within said lower bore when said lever is rotatably supported by said support, wherein said upper shaft portion and said lower shaft portion are configured to rotate with said control lever relative to said control lever support, where said upper shaft portion and said lower shaft portion are ~~configured to be removable from, and capable of reassembly to,~~ removably secured to said mount portion of said control lever.

2. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 1, additionally comprising a bearing assembly positioned between said upper shaft portion and said upper bore.

3. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 1, additionally comprising a bearing assembly positioned between said lower shaft portion and said lower bore.

4. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 1, wherein said upper bore extends completely through said upper flange.

5. (Previously Presented) A control lever assembly, comprising:

a control lever support configured to be connectable to a handlebar assembly of an associated vehicle, said support having an upper flange and a lower flange defining a space therebetween, said upper flange defining an upper bore and said lower flange defining a lower bore, said upper bore and said lower bore aligned with one another along a pivot axis of said control lever assembly;

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a control lever defining a finger grip portion and a mount portion, said mount portion defining an upper surface and a lower surface, a distance between said upper and lower surfaces sized such that said mount portion is receivable within said space, said control lever additionally comprising an upper shaft portion extending from said upper surface and a lower shaft extending from said lower surface, said upper shaft portion being supported within said upper bore and said lower shaft portion being supported within said lower bore when said lever is rotatably supported by said support;

wherein said upper bore extends completely through said upper flange and said lower bore extends only partially through said lower flange.

6. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 1, wherein said upper shaft portion is substantially cylindrical in shape.

7. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 6, wherein said lower shaft portion is substantially cylindrical in shape.

8. (Previously Presented) A control lever assembly, comprising:

a control lever support configured to be connectable to a handlebar assembly of an associated vehicle, said support having an upper flange and a lower flange defining a space therebetween, said upper flange defining an upper bore and said lower flange defining a lower bore;

a control lever defining a finger grip portion and a mount portion, said mount portion configured to be receivable within said space and defining an aperture extending therethrough;

a pivot shaft extending through said aperture and being fixed with said control lever, said pivot shaft defining a pivot axis of said control lever and having an intermediate shaft portion, an upper shaft portion and a lower shaft portion, said intermediate shaft portion positioned within said aperture, and said upper shaft portion being supported within said upper bore and said lower shaft portion being supported within said lower bore when said control lever is supported by said support; wherein said intermediate portion of said pivot shaft defines external threads and said aperture defines internal threads, said external threads engaging said internal threads when said pivot shaft is fixed to said control lever.

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9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 8, wherein said upper shaft portion defines a first diameter and said intermediate shaft portion defines a second diameter, said first diameter being larger than said second diameter.

11. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 10, wherein said lower shaft portion defines a third diameter, said third diameter being smaller than said second diameter.

12. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 8, additionally comprising a bearing assembly positioned between said upper shaft portion and said upper bore.

13. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 8, additionally comprising a bearing assembly positioned between said lower shaft portion and said lower bore.

14. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 8, wherein said upper bore extends completely through said upper flange.

15. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 14, wherein said lower bore extends only partially through said lower flange.

16. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 8, wherein said upper shaft portion is substantially cylindrical in shape.

17. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 16, wherein said lower shaft portion is substantially cylindrical in shape.

18. (Previously Presented) A control lever assembly, comprising:

a control lever having a finger grip portion and a mount portion, said mount portion defining a bore;

a control lever support having a first flange and a second flange defining a space therebetween, said first flange defining a first surface and said second flange defining a second surface facing said first surface, said support configured to support said mount portion of said control lever within said space for rotation about a pivot axis;

a support bolt defining a shaft portion, a first end and a second end, said shaft portion configured to occupy said bore when said support bolt is coupled to said control lever, said first end having a diameter greater than said shaft portion such that said first end contacts a surface of said control lever surrounding said bore;

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wherein said control lever is supported for relative rotation by said support at first and second points along said pivot axis respectively defined by said first and second ends of said support bolt, wherein a distance between said first and second points is greater than a distance between said first and second surfaces.

19. (Original) The control lever assembly of Claim 18, wherein said first point is defined by said first flange and said second point is defined by said second flange.